

# PORTCULLIS

The newsletter of Westminster Lodge No. 308



April 2018



*An assembly of Westminster's Grand Lodge Officers*

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**COMING UP**

Friday 4 May – Luncheon at 1815

Wednesday 9 May – Lodge General  
Committee

**Thursday 10 May – Charity Dinner**  
**RSVP IMPORTANT**  
**Details in the Master's Pen**

**NEXT LODGE MEETING**, Friday 18 May  
Initiation of Mr Trevor Mordaunt

## THE MASTER'S PEN



*Greetings Brethren,*

There are two items I want to devote to this Portcullis. These are the Masters Charity Dinner and the non-ritual evening we are planning to hold at our June meeting.

My wife, Margaret, and I are hosting Westminster Brethren and partners at our residence 126 Wakefield Street on the night of Thursday 10th May at 6 pm. While there is no cost for the dinner, we would like you to bring your own alcohol.

**RSVP for the night is essential for catering purposes**, and we would like your contribution to the success of the evening to be **a donation to the Wellington Free Ambulance**. This can be made directly to the Lodge Bank account as set out on the invitation. Please make your donation this way so that we can apply for a subsidy from the Freemasons Charity. Tax deductible receipts will be provided on request.

My son James, who holds a B.Mus. with hons., is a jazz pianist and he will be playing the piano throughout the evening. We look forward to hosting you.

The second item is a non-ritual evening in June, where Brethren can bring their partners to the Hotel for the Refectory dinner. Widows will also be invited. RSVP for this night will also be required. We will open and close our regular meeting, to cover the business and, possibly, deliver one of the tracing boards, and join the partners downstairs.

I will be asking our Junior Warden, Steve, to arrange some entertainment for the partners while we are in the Lodge and to arrange an extra special menu. The evening promises to be both informative and entertaining as I have invited WBro Marty Arrell to give an extended presentation on his African Odyssey

*Richard*

## MARCH - FRATERNAL VISIT

Westminster Lodge was well represented on the fraternal visit to Lower Hutt Lodge where our candidate, Bro Chris Hughes, was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree. The Toast to the Candidate was proposed by Lower Hutt's Andy Courtenay-John and, as is usual on such visits, the history of the relationship of the two Lodges was traversed.



*Relaxing in Refectory*

The 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Lower Hutt's WBro, Stan Ralston was acknowledged. Stan was initiated into Lodge Southland in December 1958.

## APRIL LODGE MEETING

VWBro Richard Simpson was welcomed back into the Lodge after an absence of three years during which he had provided 24-hour care for his late wife, Merlene. Warwick Bell observed that 13 Westminster Grand Lodge Officers, excluding country members, were present at the meeting, a rare occasion.

The ceremony of the evening was the raising of Bro Oliver Ibbetson to the Fellowcraft degree. The ceremony began with a very professional presentation of the Test Questions by Bro Peter Cullen



*The Master with the Candidate, Oliver Ibbetson and Entered Apprentices, Andrew Thomas and Jeetan Parbu*

In Refectory Warwick Bell proposed the toast to the candidate. Warwick noted that, since his initiation, Oliver had changed his job, now working in Parliament, and married once. He is shortly due to be married again in Taiwan. To be clear, the bride, Grace, is the same at each ceremony. Oliver replied briefly, commenting on how he was looking forward to a future in Freemasonry.



There was only one visitor on the evening, Rob Taylor from Empire Fergusson Lodge. The absence of further visitors may be explained by a competing beer tasting event organised by Hutt Valley Lodge. There was no difficulty in selecting Rob Taylor to respond to the Toast to Visitors, which had been proposed by Steve Wallace.



The Master, in his remarks, thanked those who had taken part in the ceremony, some at very short notice. He referred to the Divisional

Conference, noting that his preferred presentation was that from Steve Griffin, Master of lodge Waikanae, on Lodge Planning.



*Steve Griffin on Lodge Planning  
Our turn next??*

At the conclusion of the evening, Stuart Brooker updated the Brethren on the forthcoming exit of The Wellesley Club from their 26% share of the building, thus allowing the proposed structural upgrading make progress.



### **NEXT INITIATE, TREVOR MORDAUNT**

*Proposed by WBro Brian Webster*

Trevor's life has been punctuated by significant travel before his return to New Zealand. Over the course of his life he has been privileged to have lived in seven



countries and worked in six of them. Born in Dublin, Trevor moved with his family to Wellington when he was seven years old. After seven years in Wellington and eleven in Auckland, he spent eight years on his OE.

Trevor's degree in hospitality equipped him well for the early part of his career. For fifteen years Trevor worked in hotel event management and restaurants. Highlights included running afternoon tea at the Savoy in London, a brief stint at Mt. Kenya Safari club, two years at Banff Springs Hotel and, more recently at the iconic Kauri Cliffs Lodge.

Craving a new challenge Trevor, in 2014, moved into real estate, a family passion. A short tenure in sales was quickly followed with a transition into Branch Management for Ray White Real Estate. More recently, in an endeavour to further his skills, he is studying Law part-time at Victoria University.

In his personal life, Trevor is an aspiring rock climber and volunteer for the New Zealand Alpine Club. He also serves in the NZ Army Reserves as an infantry soldier. He recently moved in with his partner and young son.

## SPECIAL INSTALLATION

Following the untimely death of our District Grand Master, Merv Johnston, VWBro Russell Pratt was installed into the office by the Grand Master, MWBro Mark Winger, in a ceremony held at Empire Fergusson Lodge on 22 March. The ceremony was unique in that a number of Entered Apprentices took part.



*Placing the new District Grand Master in the Chair.*

The ceremony also included personally greeting each of the Sitting Masters present.



## WHERE'S MARTY?

Our intrepid cyclist, Mary Arrell, is nearing the end of the tour which finishes in Cape Town on 5 May. He has been regularly reporting back, via Facebook, from the wilds of Africa. His most recent report at the time of writing, was shortly after his arrival in Namibia.

As at 16 April, Marty wrote - *Rode 208km today and crossed the border from Botswana to Namibia. This is the longest cycling day of the tour that saw us complete 974km in six days of the week. Luckily, we only do 160km tomorrow and the next day into Windhoek, then 2 rest days. Botswana has been long straight roads watching out for Elephants and Lions. It helps you realise the animal dangers in Botswana when a truck driver leans out the windows and points and yells at you that*

*there are lions on the left of where we are cycling. I'm just pleased I not the slowest cyclist in the bunch. 10 countries done, only South Africa to go.*

Next Challenge? Beijing to Britain?



*Blending in*

## NOMINATORS TAKE NOTE

Some knowledge of the background on new initiates and joining members helps them to become integrated into the Lodge. All we often get is a brief description from the proposer during Refectory. I endeavour to obtain biographical material to publish in advance. However, being two steps or more removed from the candidate makes this difficult. It was agreed at the LGC meeting that the proposer should obtain this information, unprompted, and forward it to the Editor in a timely manner. What is preferred is 150-200 words and a photograph.

## REMINDERS

If any brother is aware of the passing of any brother or widow, urgent notification to the Worshipful Master is requested. Brethren are also requested to notify the Worshipful Master and/or Almoner in the case of any sickness or distress among brethren, family or widows.

ALMONER - WBro Henry Davies, with Di's assistance, Phone 566 9826

## CHANGES

Please notify the Secretary of any change of address or other contact details.

**DON'T FORGET- RSVP FOR MASTER'S CHARITY DINNER, BY 3 MAY**